



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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HAMMOUD FOUND GUILTY IN ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS CASE

TAMPA - - Following a two week trial and six hours of jury deliberations before the Honorable Richard A. Lazzara United States District Court Judge, WASSIM TAYSIR HAMMOUD was convicted in Tampa, Florida, of transferring two illegal Title-II firearms to an undercover law enforcement officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

The charges stem from meetings between the defendant and an undercover agent with ATF during the summer of 2001. According to trial testimony, during two separate meetings, the defendant sold the undercover agent a machinegun and a short-barreled shotgun. The defendant also claimed to have access to additional Title-II firearms overseas. Both charges carry a maximum sentence of ten years' imprisonment for Wassim Hammoud.

The case was investigated by Special Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' Regional Office in Tampa. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erik Matheney of the Tampa Division.